

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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for interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing persons. Section 2 amends Section 20-159, re interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing persons, to provide that when interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing are appointed by a court, the fee shall be paid out of state General Fund, with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose. Current law provides that such fees are paid by the county in which proceedings take place. This is a cost shift only, county to state, no new policy. Section 3 amends Section 25-2406, re interpreters in judicial proceedings, to provide that fees and expenses of interpreters shall be paid, in accordance with a fee schedule established by the Supreme Court, out of the General Fund, with funds appropriated to the Supreme Court for that purpose. Current law provides that such fees are paid by the county in which proceedings take place. This is a cost shift only, county to state, no new policy. Section 4 amends Section 29-2259, re administration of probation, to provide that interpreter services shall be provided for presentence investigations and for ongoing supervision by a probation officer. It also provides that the costs thereof shall be paid by the state with money appropriated by the Supreme Court. New policy interpreters shall be provided for presentence investigation and ongoing probation supervision. If such are provided under current law, the county pays. LB 54 would shift the cost to the state. We do not yet have an A bill reflecting the committee amendment, but one will be required to recognize the cost shift. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. I'm going to interpret that as opening on committee amendments. Is that correct? Okay. There is discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this bill is dealing with the situations where a presentence investigation is required, or where a person has been placed on probation and there is ongoing supervision. When an individual falls into the machinery of the criminal justice system, it is extremely important that that person understand which rights he or she may have, and also to understand which rights are being taken away. Under current circumstances, we have situations where people who do not speak English have to make use of a